

Unveiling the NBII as a Teaching Resource

The Education component of the NBII provides teachers, parents, and students of all ages with access to online biological resources that emphasize the teaching of biology, biodiversity, and ecology.

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) is a distributed electronic federation of biological data through which a network of partners, cooperators, and others can find, share, and apply information.

The Education component of the NBII provides teachers, parents, and students of all ages with access to online biological resources that emphasize the teaching of biology, biodiversity, and ecology. Included are activities, lesson plans, experiments, projects, resources, and references for classroom and home use. The goal of the NBII Education page is to assist teachers and parents in educating today's students and shaping the biologists, resource managers, and environmental stewards of tomorrow. Resources are categorized both by subject and grade level, and include summaries of content.

Web Page

<http://www.nbii.gov/education>

General Curriculum

The resources indexed in this section are general introductions and lesson plans for a wide range of biological

topics. Many offer a specifically scientific focus, while others incorporate multidisciplinary approaches. They are a good starting point for preparing a diversified curriculum.

Mammals

Various members of Class Mammalia inhabit the three major life-zones: air, land, and water. The resources in this section offer teachers and students a host of activities, references, and materials for exploring the amazing diversity of mammals on our planet.

Birds

Birds are a popular and accessible topic of study inside and outside the classroom. Learn about the enormous variety of birds around the world, identify and observe birds in the wild, and find out how your students can become volunteer birders through the many resources in this section.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Frogs, turtles, lizards, and snakes have the power to both captivate and intimidate humans, who often

misunderstand and underestimate these creatures' critical roles in ecosystem health. Many species have recently become threatened or endangered by forces not yet apparent to researchers. These links provide resources for exploring anatomies, life cycles, habitats, and common misunderstandings about these animals.

Insects, Arachnids & Annelids

Children are often drawn to the fascinating world of creepy, crawly creatures; teachers know that these organisms are engaging and low maintenance classroom "pets." Learn more about bugs, spiders, and worms through the resources provided here.

Microbes

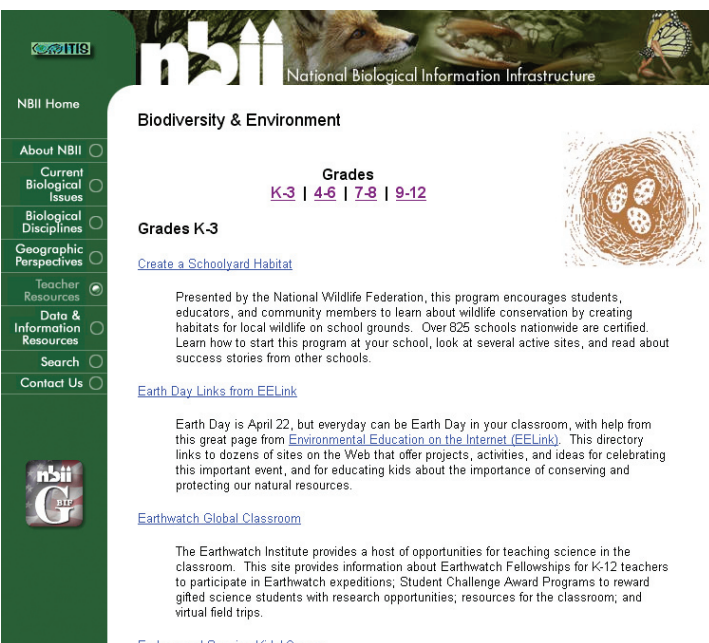
Though generally invisible to the naked eye, microbes play an important role in the natural world. Share with your students the wonders, and the dangers, of these often forgotten organisms through these fascinating links.

Aquatic Biology

This section offers resources which uncover the astounding diversity of life within the freshwater and marine ecosystems of our planet. Included are links to sites about coral reefs, aquatic invertebrates and mammals, intertidal zones, fishes, and aquatic plant life.

Botany

Plants often provide ideal subjects of study for the classroom, as they are easy to raise and to observe. Find curriculum ideas to supplement studies of plant anatomy, life cycles, and



Biodiversity & Environment

Grades
[K-3](#) | [4-6](#) | [7-8](#) | [9-12](#)

Grades K-3
[Create a Schoolyard Habitat](#)

Presented by the National Wildlife Federation, this program encourages students, educators, and community members to learn about wildlife conservation by creating habitats for local wildlife on school grounds. Over 825 schools nationwide are certified. Learn how to start this program at your school, look at several active sites, and read about success stories from other schools.

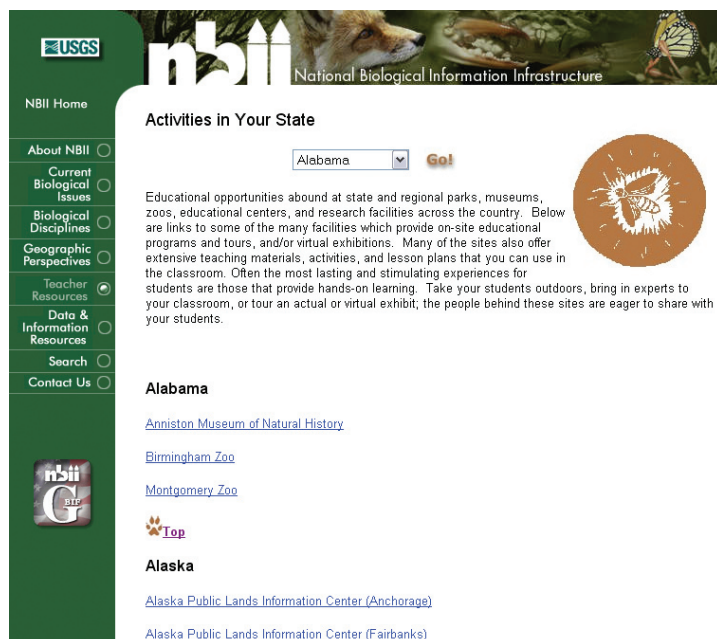
[Earth Day Links from EELink](#)

Earth Day is April 22, but everyday can be Earth Day in your classroom, with help from this great page from [Environmental Education on the Internet \(EELink\)](#). This directory links to dozens of sites on the Web that offer projects, activities, and ideas for celebrating this important event, and for educating kids about the importance of conserving and protecting our natural resources.

[Earthwatch Global Classroom](#)

The Earthwatch Institute provides a host of opportunities for teaching science in the classroom. This site provides information about Earthwatch Fellowships for K-12 teachers to participate in Earthwatch expeditions; Student Challenge Award Programs to reward gifted science students with research opportunities; resources for the classroom; and virtual field trips.

[Endangered Species Kids' Corner](#)



Activities in Your State

Alabama

Educational opportunities abound at state and regional parks, museums, zoos, educational centers, and research facilities across the country. Below are links to some of the many facilities which provide on-site educational programs and tours, and/or virtual exhibitions. Many of the sites also offer extensive teaching materials, activities, and lesson plans that you can use in the classroom. Often the most lasting and stimulating experiences for students are those that provide hands-on learning. Take your students outdoors, bring in experts to your classroom, or tour an actual or virtual exhibit; the people behind these sites are eager to share with your students.

Alabama

[Anniston Museum of Natural History](#)

[Birmingham Zoo](#)

[Montgomery Zoo](#)

[Top](#)

Alaska

[Alaska Public Lands Information Center \(Anchorage\)](#)

[Alaska Public Lands Information Center \(Fairbanks\)](#)

species diversity through the sites indexed in this area.

Biodiversity & Environment

In teaching students today about biological diversity and the web of life, educators help to ensure that the environmental stewards of tomorrow will act wisely and responsibly. The materials indexed in this section can provide teachers with the tools to explain and

illuminate such concepts as biodiversity, ecosystems, habitats, endangered species, ecology, and food webs.

Activities in Your State

Looking for new and different activities inside and outside the classroom? Invite a ranger to your school; take the kids on a guided tour of a local park, zoo, aquarium, or nature center; order a discovery trunk for your students to explore the outdoors in the classroom; or visit virtual nature exhibits. All of this and more is possible through the myriad opportunities offered by the Web sites in this section, organized by state.

For More Information

For more information on NBII educational resources, please contact:

Program Manager
 NBII National Program Office
 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 302
 Reston, VA 20192
 Phone: 703-648-NBII (6244)
 Fax: 703-648-4224
 E-mail: nbii@nbii.gov